

URGENT ACTION

COURT ORDERS SUSPENSION OF EVICTION NOTICE

Members of the Afro-descendant community of Caracolí, in the Curvaradó region of Chocó Department, were not served with a threatened eviction notice in June, thanks to a Colombian constitutional court ruling and pressure from the international community.

Local police in the Curvaradó region were preparing to serve an eviction notice on the community of Caracolí on 18 June. However, the Colombian Constitutional Court ordered the immediate suspension of the eviction notice and called for the protection of the community, which consists of over 100 people. International pressure, including appeals sent by members and supporters of Amnesty International, played an important part in this decision.

The eviction notice had been ordered by a local judge despite the central government's repeated recognition that the residents of Caracolí legally own their lands and therefore have a right to remain there. Caracolí is included in a collective land title, owned by the local Afro-descendant community, covering the region of Curvaradó and Jiguamiandó. The Ministry for the Interior and Justice had recently called on the regional judicial authorities to respect the validity of this land title.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. No further action is requested at present. Amnesty International will continue to monitor the situation and will take further action as necessary.

This is the first update of UA 154/09 (AMR 23/016/2009)

Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR23/016/2009/en>

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